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## **National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week 2008 Conference Announced**

### *26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to Focus on Strategic Alliances in the Global Economy*

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) announced that the 2008 Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The theme for the conference is "The Power of Strategic Alliances in the Global Economy."

"I have no doubt that this year's conference will build upon last year's historic event and continue the tradition of excellence," stated MBDA National Director Ronald N. Langston. "MED Week allows us to celebrate the achievements of minority entrepreneurs and business owners and serves as a forum to explore cutting edge business strategies, skills and ideas. This year, participants will have two and one-half days dedicated to their business success," continued Langston.

The substance of the Conference will provide critical information to foster the growth and competitiveness of the minority business community. In addition to the State of Commerce Luncheon and the Annual MED Week Awards Gala, the Conference will feature a Business EXPO, a Legislative Issue Briefing and multiple educational workshops. Highlights from the 2007 MED Week Conference held last year – including photographs, videos, and sponsors – are available on the MED Week website at <http://www.medweek.gov/mbda2007/public/enter.aspx>.

MED Week has grown tremendously since its modest beginnings in 1983, when only a few hundred people were in attendance. Today, with the combined leadership of the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other public and private sector partners, MBDA has elevated MED Week to a distinguished and intellectually stimulating event attracting over 1,000 attendees. Sponsors already making their pledges to support the 2008 Conference include Raytheon and Comerica Bank.

Leading up to the National MED Week conference are regional MED Week events in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and San Francisco. Those who are interested in learning more about MED Week can call (888) 836-7647 or visit [www.medweek.gov](http://www.medweek.gov).

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#### **About the Minority Business Development Agency**

Established in 1969, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce and headquartered in Washington, DC. MBDA is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in this Nation. The Agency actively promotes the strategic growth and competitiveness of large, medium and small minority business enterprises by offering management and technical assistance through a network of nearly fifty local business centers throughout the United States. The location of MBDA funded centers and other helpful resources to build minority businesses are available at [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov).